

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Summary of the Invention: On pages 2-3 please delete the Summary in its entirety and replace it with the following:

SUMMARY

In one illustrative embodiment, a system for screening broadcast programming is provided. The system comprises a viewer configured to receive broadcast programming, to receive commands from a user, to receive commands from an interface coupled to the viewer, to present the received broadcast programming to the user based on commands from the user, and to present the received broadcast programming to the user based on commands from the interface. The system further comprises a processor coupled to the interface and configured to receive a real time screening signal (RTSS) and a precision screening signal (PSS), to receive user input from the interface, to store the received user input, to generate a local action signal based on the user input and at least one of the received RTSS or PSS, and to transmit the local action signal to the interface. The interface is configured to receive the local action signal, to transmit commands to the viewer based on the local action signal, and to receive the user input from the user, the user input comprising at least an action preference.

Moreover, the system comprises a broadcast recorder coupled to the interface and configured to receive broadcast programming, to store the received broadcast programming, and to transmit the stored broadcast programming to the viewer in response to user commands. The RTSS is generated based on real time monitoring of the broadcast programming being presented in real time. The PSS is generated based on a playback of at least one portion of a recording of the broadcast programming. The processor, in response to the broadcast programming being presented to the user via the viewer in real time, generates the local action signal based on the RTSS. In response to the broadcast programming being presented to the user via the viewer as a playback of the stored broadcast programming, the processor generates the local action signal based on the PSS.

The RTSS is generated by reconciling a plurality of screening signals from a plurality of different viewers of the broadcast programming prior to the broadcast programming being presented to the user. The PSS is generated based on the RTSS by having a second user view portions of the recording of the broadcast programming, prior to the broadcast programming being presented to the user via the viewer, based on content of interest segments present in the broadcast programming as specified by the RTSS and identifying a start or end of the content of interest segments present in the broadcast programming.

In another illustrative embodiment, a system for screening broadcast programming is provided that comprises a viewer and an interface. The system comprises a viewer configured to receive broadcast programming, to receive commands from a user, to receive commands from an interface coupled to the viewer, to present the received broadcast programming to the user based on commands from the user, and to present the received broadcast programming to the user based on commands from the interface. The interface is configured to receive a real time screening signal (RTSS) and a precision screening signal (PSS), to receive user input from the user, the user input comprising at least an action preference, to store the received user input, and to transmit commands to the viewer based on the user input and at least one of the received RTSS or PSS. The RTSS is generated based on real time monitoring of the broadcast programming being presented in real time. The PSS is generated based on a playback of at least one portion of a recording of the broadcast programming.

In response to the broadcast programming being presented to the user via the viewer in real time, the commands are generated based on the RTSS. In response to the broadcast programming being presented to the user via the viewer as a playback of the stored broadcast programming, the commands are generated based on the PSS. The RTSS is generated by reconciling a plurality of screening signals from a plurality of different viewers of the broadcast programming prior to the broadcast programming being presented to the user. The PSS is generated based on the RTSS by having a second user view portions of the recording of the broadcast programming, prior to the broadcast programming being presented to the user via the viewer, based on content of interest

segments present in the broadcast programming as specified by the RTSS and identifying a start or end of the content of interest segments present in the broadcast programming.

In still another illustrative embodiment, a system for screening broadcast programming is provided that comprises a processor coupled to an interface and configured to receive a real time screening signal (RTSS) and a precision screening signal (PSS), to receive user input from the interface, to store the received user input, to generate a local action signal based on the user input and at least one of the received RTSS or PSS, and to transmit the local action signal to the interface. The system further includes the interface, which is configured to receive the local action signal, to transmit the local action signal to a viewer, and to receive user input from the user, the user input comprising at least an action preference. The RTSS is generated based on real time monitoring of the broadcast programming being presented in real time, the PSS is generated based on a playback of at least one portion of a recording of the broadcast programming. The RTSS is used to control presentation of the broadcast programming to the user via the viewer in real time. The PSS is used to control presentation of the broadcast programming to the user via the viewer as a playback of stored broadcast programming. The RTSS is generated by reconciling a plurality of screening signals from a plurality of different viewers of the broadcast programming prior to the broadcast programming being presented to the user. The PSS is generated based on the RTSS by having a second user view portions of the recording of the broadcast programming, prior to the broadcast programming being presented to the user via the viewer, based on content of interest segments present in the broadcast programming as specified by the RTSS and identifying a start or end of the content of interest segments present in the broadcast programming.

In a further illustrative embodiment, a computer program product for screening broadcast programming is provided. The computer program product has a recordable medium with a computer program recorded thereon. The computer program, when executed by a computing device, causes the computing device to receive a real time screening signal (RTSS) and a precision screening signal (PSS) and receive user input from a user, the user input comprising at least an action preference. The computer program further causes the computing device to store the received user input and generate

a local action signal based on the user input and the received screening signal. Moreover, the computer program further causes the computing device to receive the broadcast programming, store the received broadcast programming, and present the broadcast programming to a user.

The RTSS is generated based on real time monitoring of the broadcast programming being presented in real time. The PSS is generated based on a playback of at least one portion of a recording of the broadcast programming. The RTSS is used to control presentation of the broadcast programming to the user in real time. The PSS is used to control presentation of the broadcast programming to the user as a playback of the stored broadcast programming. The RTSS is generated by reconciling a plurality of screening signals from a plurality of different viewers of the broadcast programming prior to the broadcast programming being presented to the user. The PSS is generated based on the RTSS by having a second user view portions of the recording of the broadcast programming, prior to the broadcast programming being presented to the user via the viewer, based on content of interest segments present in the broadcast programming as specified by the RTSS and identifying a start or end of the content of interest segments present in the broadcast programming.

In another illustrative embodiment, a method for screening broadcast programming is provided that comprises receiving a real time screening signal (RTSS) and a precision screening signal (PSS), the RTSS and PSS associated with a broadcast programming, the broadcast programming comprising at least a content of interest (COI) segment. The method further comprises receiving the broadcast programming and receiving user input from a user, the user input comprising at least a COI segment type, wherein the user input further comprises at least an action preference. The method moreover comprises generating a local action signal based on at least one of the RTSS or the PSS and the user input, storing the broadcast programming, and presenting the broadcast programming to a user.

The RTSS is generated based on real time monitoring of the broadcast programming being presented in real time. The PSS is generated based on a playback of at least one portion of a recording of the broadcast programming. The RTSS is used to control presentation of the broadcast programming to the user in real time. The PSS is

used to control presentation of the broadcast programming to the user as a playback of the stored broadcast programming. The RTSS is generated by reconciling a plurality of screening signals from a plurality of different viewers of the broadcast programming prior to the broadcast programming being presented to the user. The PSS is generated based on the RTSS by having a second user view portions of the recording of the broadcast programming, prior to the broadcast programming being presented to the user via the viewer, based on content of interest segments present in the broadcast programming as specified by the RTSS and identifying a start or end of the content of interest segments present in the broadcast programming.

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will be described in, or will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art in view of, the following detailed description of the exemplary embodiments illustrative of the present invention.